

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 25th March 2019

Wards: All

Subject: Reference from the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel – Diesel Levy and Emissions Based Charging Review

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Laxmi Attawar, Chair of the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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Recommendations:

1. The Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel recommends that Cabinet take into account its reference set out in paragraph 2.5 below when making decisions on the Diesel Levy implementation review.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. At its meeting on 26 February 2019 the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel received a report on Terms of Reference for Diesel Levy and Emission based charging review. The Panel was asked to discuss and comment on the report and agree any reference it wished to make back to Cabinet about the terms of reference for this review.
- 1.2. The Panel agreed to make a reference to Cabinet, as set out in paragraph 2.5 below.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The Council introduced the diesel levy surcharge in 2016. At the time of approval, Members requested the effect of the levy be reviewed after 2 years of its operation.
- 2.2. The Panel received a report setting out the background information, how the theme ties in with Merton's existing policies, and details on how this paper will trigger the evidence gathering required to ascertain whether Merton's policies have had any impact on levels of diesel car ownership in comparison with the national change.
- 2.3. Panel members asked questions and sought responses to concerns raised. Responses were provided by the Director of Environment and Regeneration and the Head of Parking Services.
- 2.4. Full details of points made in the discussion will be published in the minutes of the meeting.
- 2.5. Panel **RESOLVED** to make the following reference to Cabinet:

The Panel recommends to Cabinet that they consider whether to extend/clarify the terms of reference for the diesel levy review and the review into emissions based charging in other councils to examine whether there is any evidence of the type of behavioral change

that these schemes drive. I.e. there might not be a fall in overall applications for permits, but over time there might be a trend for permits e.g. for less polluting vehicles, even though overall permit numbers remain broadly the same.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None – Cabinet is required under the council’s constitution to receive, consider and respond to references from overview and scrutiny.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. Invitations to provide submissions to the Panel were sent to a wide range of residents’ associations and local community organisations.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. These are included in the report to Cabinet on 10 December 2018 and the subsequent report to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 26 February 2019.

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. Cabinet is required under the council’s constitution to receive, consider and respond to references from overview and scrutiny. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires Cabinet to respond to reports and recommendations made by scrutiny committees within two months of written notice being given.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. These are included in the report to Cabinet on 10 December 2018 and the subsequent report to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 26 February 2019.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. These are included in the report to Cabinet on 10 December 2018 and the subsequent report to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 26 February 2019.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. These are included in the report to Cabinet on 10 December 2018 and the subsequent report to the Sustainable Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 26 February 2019.

10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- None

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 11.1. None